



PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 046700-5004-12

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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OCT 11 2002

GROUP 3600

In re Application of: )

Marc ALAIA et al. )

Application No.: 09/828,731 )

Group Art Unit: 2161

Filed: April 9, 2001 )

Examiner: Unassigned

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR )  
CONTROLLING THE INITIATION )  
AND DURATION OF OVERTIME )  
INTERVALS IN ELECTRONIC )  
AUCTIONS )

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above-identified continuation application on the merits,  
please amend the application as follows:

Please cancel claims 90, 91, 100, 101, 116, 126, and 130-137.

Please amend claims 89, 92, 94-97, 99, 102, 105, 109-113, 117, 119-123 and 125-129 as follows:

89. A method to control overtime in an electronic auction, comprising:

(a) defining a first time interval corresponding to at least a portion of time during  
which bids are submitted to the auction for a first lot, a second time interval, a first overtime  
condition and a first closing time for the first lot, the first time interval not being equal to the  
second time interval;

(b) determining whether the first overtime condition occurs during the first time  
interval; and